



# Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • (217) 782-4836 • TTY (217) 524-7128

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November 18, 1996

Beth Close  
924 South Mill Street  
Pontiac, IL 61764

Dear Beth:

Thank you for your inquiry about listing the Charles Nettleton House at 401 West Livingston Street, Pontiac, Illinois in the National Register of Historic Places. After reviewing the photographs and information you have sent it is my initial impression that the home would be a good candidate for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The house qualifies for Criterion C for architecture as a good example of a frame Gothic Revival styled house. In the nomination for Section 7--Descriptions (Bulletin 16A, p. 28-34), you will need to describe the house as originally built and discuss and date all of the physical changes made to the house (additions, windows, wall additions, etc.).

For Section 8-Statement of Significance (Bulletin 16A, p. 45-51). Your opening paragraph should include the house is locally significant for listing in the National Register; it meets Criterion C for architecture as a good example of a frame Gothic Revival styled house; two or three sentences about why the house is a good example of Gothic Revival architecture; and the home's period of significance (the year it was built). Then for your supporting paragraphs you will need to discuss Gothic Revival architecture including a history of the style, what traits the style has, what traits of the style your house has; and compare it architecturally to other Gothic Revival houses in Pontiac including the Jones House at 314 East Madison Street. Tell if they have had major new additions, synthetic siding, porch removals or new porches, new windows, etc. Your house has also has some Exotic Revival detailing seen in the tent like moldings above the entry. I do not have a good Gothic Revival nomination form for you to footnote from. Enclosed is an Italianate nomination to give you an idea of how to write one and information on Gothic Revival from Virginia & Lee McAlester's "A Field Guide to American Houses," that you can quote from in your nomination for the discussion about the Gothic Revival.



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Photographs. (Bulletin 16A, p. 62-65). We will need two identical sets of black and white photographs at least 5 x 7 in size labelled in **pencil**. The National Park Service will not accept ink, typewriter, or press on labels. U.S.G.S. Maps, we will need two originals showing the location of the house (Bulletin 16A, p. 62 & 83 for ordering and labelling information.) Slides--we will need one set of color slides of the house including one slide of each comparison Gothic Revival house in town for your presentation to the Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council. (Bulletin 16A, p. 65). Sketch floor plans. We will need sketch floor plans of the house which do not need to be to scale.

Enclosed are nomination materials, instructions, and a sample nomination. Please read all of the instructions and sample carefully before beginning to fill out the forms. Submit the nomination on blank paper, dropping the text down three inches from the top on every page so that we can place it on to continuation sheets.

I look forward to receiving a draft nomination soon on the Nettleton House!  
Please feel free to contact me anytime at 217-785-4324 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

David Newton  
Assistant National Register Coordinator

enclosures

## LINCOLN'S LECTURE

Hon. Abraham Lincoln, of Springfield, delivered a lecture before the Young Men's Literary Association of Pontiac, at the Presbyterian Church, on Friday evening last. It was totally unknown to the Association up to noon that day, that he intended coming; but being in Bloomington and having previously received two invitations to lecture here, Mr. Lincoln thought this a favorable opportunity to fulfill it. He telegraphed up that he would be on hand that evening. Notwithstanding the little time intervening (some five or six hours) until the lecture was delivered, a crowded house greeted the lecturer. The lecture pleased us very much, both in style of delivery and the ideas advanced. His subject was what might be termed a medley—a variety of topics (philosophic) being treated. The whole thing was new to us, and the ideas were conveyed in simple and beautiful language so clear that no difficulty was experienced in comprehending them. Fault has been found with the lecture, some of the literary critics about town contending that little originality, if any at all was contained in it. In other words, they themselves (the critics) say, in so many words, that Lincoln spent one hour in telling them what they knew before! Gentlemen, ain't that a little too modest! It certainly follows that they must have pondered on these self same ideas; else how could they know that they were not original! The amount of the matter is just this—a more satisfactory subject, doubtless could have been selected—one that would suit us all much better. But, while this is true, no unprejudiced listener will deny, that the manner in which he treated the subject-matter in hand, was well worthy of the lecturer. We are all of very much prone to expect that when a man of Mr. Lincoln's reputation speaks on any subject whatever, he will carry us completely away. We should reflect that new ideas are not discovered every hour—they are not the creation of a day, nor a month, nor a year; and there are few men today, even in one of their most brilliant and captivating lectures, can advance half a dozen original ideas. This difficulty can readily be recognized by us all, when we consider our own limited knowledge. How many of use, and especially, how many of those who are so sharply criticizing Mr. Lincoln's lecture, ever, throughout our whole lifetime, promulgated a single new idea. We are too much inclined to find fault with the production of others, without considering our own diminutive intellectual attainments. Let us consider but for a moment how little we ourselves know, and we will not be half so quick in detecting the deficiencies of others.

Pontiac, Ills Sept. 13th 1859

A. Lincoln Esq.  
Springfield; Ills

Dear Sir,

I received yours of Aug. 10th. Was glad to learn by it that you would lecture for us sometime during the coming fall or winter if that would suit us. Any time that you may fix upon will be agreeable to the association, we should like for you designate the time, also the subject and the charge that you make for the lecture, so that we can make arrangements for the fall + winter course.

If you could make it convenient to come sometime between this and the 20th of Oct. we (the republicans) would get up a Republican county Mass Meeting. For we are sadly in need of help to arouse the apathetic republicans in this county for the coming fall election. Philip Cook editor of the Sentinel is the nominee of the Republicans for Treasurer. On his election depends too a great degree the life of our paper. We can elect him if we can get the Republicans aroused from the state of apathy that they seem to be in. We think that if you would consent to come and give us a speech at a general county convention that it would arouse the cold to a sense of duty. We sincerely hope that you may find it convenient to give us help in this our time need. You can give us a speech in course of the day and lecture at night. Let us hear from you soon.

yours truly,

J. J. Gowan  
Secretary of Young Mens Literary Ass.  
Pontiac Ills.

NOV 15 1996

Preservation Services

SUBJECT: 401 W. Livingston St. Pontiac, Il.

Built: 1854, by Charles Nettleton. His widow married Jason Strevelle and lived in the home. Mr. Strevelle was a Il. State Representative for two terms and was an attorney and involved in the incorporation of the village of Pontiac in 1856.

Location: Corner of Livingston St. and N. Oak St.

Main walk runs from Livingston St. and is 4' wide diagonal laid brick. First step is also brick, second is also but covered with cement as is the stoop.

1. Entry is through double arch doors which seem to have older engraved hinges[another pair in basement.]

1b.[photos taken in 1980] Presently has a roof over the entry supported by carved brackets.

2, 3, and 4. South and East views

5. View into entrance- double arched glazing with wide wood framing with built-up trim and beading.

5b. Shows entry open and doorway to east parlor.

6. North wall of east parlor. Opens to a bath on the west and closet on the east. Said to have been an open alcove- area is only about 5' deep. Window on south wall, one on east in room and one in closet have similar framing as entry with wood paneling to the floor.

There are 10' ceilings and a hot water radiator heating system.

7. West parlor- has wide baseboard molding as other rooms. Picture shows double door area on north wall. It has a cutout in upper ne frame like a hinge cut. Said to have been double doors into back room. Now is wall between parlor and apartment.

8. Window on west wall, showing base and molding. This window is a 6/6 instead of the 2/2 on south and east.

9. Present kitchen area. Has tall plain wood wall cabinets. Notice the very wide wood around doorway to west parlor- it slants inward, and there is similar wood around the exterior doorway in the west wall. [woman living there says there is a door behind upper cabinet on east wall of the kitchen; might go up if it was a back stair]

10. Stairway up from entry- good condition; hallway to the right ends in three doorways. One north outside, one west to apartment, and one south to basement.

11. THE BASEMENT! Here's where the age shows. Wooden steps are cupped; foundation was stone with a brick half wall on the inside. Between 5'5" and 6' deep, but has hand worked joists.

The house is supported mostly by floor jacks. The fellow who did some work on the house said there is a bark covered stump supporting the nw corner. Does appear dry and no insects.

12. Upper landing - 6/6 window, less trim. Door to the left up to bath, room is about 12 x 12, with doorway in nw wall to 13. Pink wall was added; hall runs north and south, with door to sw bedroom one end and 6/6 window at north end.

14. Upper stairway, with door to ne bedroom.

15. NE bedroom, plainer, shows door and molding. Lower ceiling rolls down on east wall.

16. SW bedroom - shows ceiling roll and small window near floor. There is a 2 step down into this room.

17. Doorway from sw bedroom showing the double windows with arched glazing at south end of hall.

18. View of south end of hall, with double windows open. notice ceiling line; there is a screen on the window. This is the upper south window with the metal gable. The se bedroom has a matching window and same rolled ceiling under east roof.

19. Rear, east side

20. Rear, west side

21. Older picture, shows utility building at rear of property about 20' x 50'; has open floor area and storage.

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Pontiac, Il. 61764  
815-844-5656























